



UNITED STATES  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION V  
230 SOUTH DEARBORN ST.  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60604

US EPA RECORDS CENTER REGION 5



REPLY TO ATTENTION OF:  
5HR

MAY 28 1983

Dr. Euala Bingham  
University of Cincinnati  
ML 627  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45221

Dear Dr. Bingham:

I have attached a copy of CH2M-Hill's proposal for restoration of drinking water contaminated with coal tar derivatives found at the Reilly Tar site in St. Louis Park, Minnesota. I have also attached excerpts of a proposal made by Reilly Tar and Chemical Company on May 19, 1983.

I am asking that you and Dr. James Selkirk review these two documents and contrast the relative risk to human health, especially regarding the levels of noncarcinogenic PAH. The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) is proposing a limitation of 28 nanograms per liter (ng/l) carcinogenic PAH and 280 ng/l for other PAH. I have attached the MDH reasoning for the determination of this limitation which represents a chronic health risk to 1 in 100,000. Reilly Tar proposed 28 ng/l for carcinogenic PAH and up to 400,000 ng/l for alleged noncarcinogenic PAH.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), the MDH and EPA technical and legal staff would like to meet with you and Dr. Selkirk regarding the above mentioned studies and determine the course and timing of the sequence of events that will prepare the regulatory agencies for trial of this case. However, the immediate and highest priority now is to weigh the risks of Reilly's proposal and compare that proposal to the more stringent requirements proposed by the MDH. The MPCA could implement the drinking water system design proposed by CH2M-Hill, which meets the requirements of the MDH, by Fall 1983. Meanwhile, other cities may still be exposed, to some degree, to the trace coal tar contamination found in their drinking water supply.

Sincerely yours,

Paul Bitter  
On-Scene Coordinator

cc: Selkirk - Oak Ridge National Lab  
Epler - Oak Ridge National Lab  
Hird - DOJ  
Leininger - 5C